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## An Acorn Store-house of the California Woodpecker

BY WALTER K. FISHER

MOST Californians are familiar with the acorn-hoarding habits of the California woodpecker (*Melanerpes f. bairdi*). During the late fall and winter this bird, with praiseworthy industry, stores great quantities of acorns, preferably the slender ones of the California live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*). Holes are drilled into the bark of trees and the acorns are inserted and wedged in so tightly as to defy anything but steel. Altho one finds scattered acorns in the bark of eucalyptus, in telegraph poles, in fence posts, in the sides of houses, or wedged under shingles, the woodpeckers seem to prefer the live oak in the valleys. In the mountains conifers are sometimes used.

The birds show a decided preference for certain trees and use the same tree and the same holes year after year, adding new holes as time goes by. In front of Dr. David Starr Jordan's residence at Stanford University, California, is a large live oak which is somewhat famous among trees. Its bark is closely studded with acorns, even out onto the smaller limbs. On account of its size the tree is difficult to photograph. The accompanying illustration, taken last February by Dr. A. K. Fisher, shows only a part of the "acorned" surface. As will be seen the acorns are closely placed. Some of them have been driven into the ends of old partially decayed nuts, which they have telescoped, the old shell enclosing the fresh acorn. Only a portion of the acorns are eaten by the woodpeckers, many remaining till they decay or are "driven to the wall" by the insertion of a fresh crop. After a time the bark partially decays about the old holes, so that the acorns will not fit tightly. Such holes, some of which are seen in the illustration, are often abandoned. This oak is the finest specimen of an "acorned" tree I have ever seen. I believe no photograph of it has heretofore been published.

*Palo Alto, California.*

## A Nest of Empidonax difficilis in New Mexico

BY FLORENCE MERRIAM BAILEY

THE nest of the western flycatcher shown in the accompanying figure was found by Mr. Bailey on the headwaters of the Pecos in the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico at an elevation of 11,000 feet. The upturned root of a large tree on the bank of a stream was taken advantage of for the the nesting site, and the nest was placed in a niche about half way up the vertical wall, six or eight feet high, composed of earth, roots and stones—a wall not particularly at-

NEST AND YOUNG OF WESTERN FLYCATCHER
*From Biological Survey Collection (by Permission)*

tractive to weasels and other four-footed egg hunters. When the photograph was taken on August 5, 1903, the four young were fully fledged and filled the nest too full for inspection, but on August 7 the brood had flown and the nest was carefully examined. It proved to be made of rootlets and grass stems, lined with finer grass, with green moss so mixed thru its walls that it had the appearance of an eastern phoebe's nest. The nest seemed to be double, as if a second had been built over the first in the fashion sometimes adopted by the robin.

*Washington, D. C.*

## Among the Flathead Birds

BY P. M. SILLOWAY

"THERE is a pleasure in the pathless woods," wrote the poet, or something like that; for the present occasion finds me too far from my library to verify the accuracy of the quotation. There is a stack of birds in the Flathead woods around my headquarters, at any rate, and it was a pleasure to strike the forest at its best.

The first day of June, 1906, found me afield, roaming the woods for things new or old in bird nature. This portion of the forest is by no means pathless, altho on every side lies the interminable domain of one of the largest forest reserves in the United States. Around us is a little settlement, carved out of the wilderness; but a few steps leads into magnificent areas of mixed growth of towering tamaracks, yellow pines, red fir, Engelmann spruce, and related conifers, with others varying from the sapling stage to veterans of the wilderness. In the more swampy regions are cottonwoods, willows, alders, maples, and swamp-loving shrubs. A few running extracts from my notes will perhaps be of most interest to readers of THE CONDOR, and the outcome will depend upon material the woods afford.

June 1.—A nest of the Audubon warbler was found in the clearing west of the biological station. A bunch of grayish material in a likely place caught my glance. It was in a cottonwood sapling, one of several under a spreading veteran whose exposed roots were washed by the gentle ripple of the lake shore. A pair of bright eyes were twinkling over the brim of the nest, and as I gave the tree a shake, downward darted Mrs. *Dendroica auduboni* soon to appear in the large tree and chirp apprehensively. A step or two, or a couple of hitches, carried me up so that I could see the five handsome eggs. The nest was in an upright crotch formed by several small branches against the main stem, the top of the nest being eight feet from the ground. The site was remarkably exposed, and indicated a degree of familiarity not generally ascribed to this frequenter of the wilderness. The nest was made of rather coarse material, chiefly dark colored, such as rootlets, grass stems, weed-bark, and fine grasses, the latter forming a sort of middle layer. The lining was mostly white horsehair, soft feathers, and some white felt stuff in the bottom under the horsehair. The eggs were perfectly fresh. The male was moving around in neighboring trees, and frequently sang near the place.

June 2.—Today it was my fortune for the second time to find a nest of the Townsend warbler (*Dendroica townsendi*). The males were singing persistently in the woods, and I spent the day in exploring a rocky ridge on which I found my first nest of this warbler. It was on the side of a rugged fault, overgrown with bushes and fir trees in small and large sapling stage. The males were singing in the larger trees growing on lower ground around the fault. Toward the close of a wearisome afternoon I saw a nest near the top of a large fir sapling in the edge of a small clump. A gentle shake caused the sitting bird to dart downward among the bases of adjacent trees, where she skulked in silence, flitting around the periphery of my limited view. The large black area surrounded by yellow on the side of her head, with other markings, soon informed me that I had at length found the goal of my search. For twenty minutes I sat and waited, watching her movements. Only once did she make any noise, when she flitted quite near me and uttered a low chirp followed by a subdued chattering of three or four notes. The male did not appear while I was about the place.

The nest was ten feet from the ground, near the top of the fir. As I before

remarked, it closely resembled a chipping sparrow's, both in position and structure. It was on horizontal twigs against the main stem, and sat loosely in place. It was made externally of coarse weed-stems, within which were fine grass stems and a lining of white horsehair, all well-rounded and with substantial walls. The cavity was 1.75 inches in diameter and 1.25 inches deep. There were 5 eggs, but the dull white surface indicated that they were far advanced in incubation. When fresh they were probably faintly pinkish white, speckled all over with reddish and dark brown, sparsely over the smaller end and most of the surface, heavily on the larger end. I feared that I should not be able to save them as good specimens, but I wanted to photograph them well, so I carried them in. It was also likely that the birds would nest again in the same locality, and I would have another chance for a good set.

A day or two later I watched a male Townsend moving about and singing in a standard yellow pine. I had no glasses with me, but during the fifteen minutes I devoted to him he kept in the lower branches of the tree, and I had no difficulty in observing him. He was very leisurely in his movements, seldom flitting far, gleaning from the twigs and needles, and stopping to sing seven or eight times per minute. The song as I heard it ran like this: *Ree, ree, ree, ee, eh, cheet eh chee*—with emphasis on the *cheet*. The singing varied in the number of opening *ree* notes, and apparently when a syllable is dropped in the opening another is added in the ending. Frequently after the song he added a quiet, hurried, chattering soliloquy. Thinking that he might hurry homeward after his recital, I waited to follow him, but he merely moved to the next tree to continue his performance, and I wandered on my way.

The next morning I spent two hours following the movements of a singing male Townsend, searching the firs below as he sang in the tops of the taller conifers. It appeared that he was simply out to forage and sing, for in the given time he covered about a hundred yards of rugged hillside, and I was tired enough to give up the search. Other males were singing, and at one time I heard four which were probably within a radius of one hundred yards of me. My experience leads me to conclude that nests in the small firs are exceptions, but thus far I have given exclusive attention to them. The song of this warbler is the prevailing one now in the high coniferous trees.

June 5.—To-day an Audubon warbler gave as pretty an exhibition of maternal instinct as I ever witnessed in a small bird. She was sitting on her nest twelve feet up in a fir tree. As I gave the tree a shake, she fairly fell out and alighted prone on the ground under a nearby sapling, where she sprawled with quivering, outspread wing and expanded tail. In the same place she lay for a short time, then fluttered several inches away and continued her display. Thus she fluttered around me, always flitting in view with this demonstration and fluttering out of sight. Of course I knew what it meant—young birds in the nest; but from force of habit I went up the bending pole of the fir. The feathers protruding over the brim would have established the identity of the nest, if I had not known the parent bird. My suspicions were verified when I felt in the nest, for my fingers closed over the warm bodies of recently hatched younglings. Thus in the same week I found fresh eggs of the Audubon warbler, and young birds as well. But I haven't yet found fresh eggs of the Townsend.

*Lewistown, Montana.*

## Nesting Sites of the Desert Sparrow

BY FLORENCE MERRIAM BAILEY

THE naturalist working in the arid plains of the southwest finds his days so enlivened by the bright cheery song of *Amphispiza b. deserticola* that he becomes greatly attached to the companionable little songster and comes to associate him only with sunshine and happy good cheer. But for all his merry tunes poor *Amphispiza* has anxieties and tragedies all his own.

One June morning in New Mexico as I was going thru a grove of small round junipers, with spirits lifted by the bright song from the top of one of the trees, my steps were arrested and I gazed with dismay upon a beautiful little nest rudely torn from its place in the juniper, and the ground below strewn with feathers of the brooding mother bird. The horrid tragedy was probably no older than the night for the wind had not had time to blow away the feathers, and tracks tho blurred by the night's rain were fresh enough to fix the blame upon the marauder—a coyote or lynx. Was the songster to whom I had been listening, from the neighboring juniper top still hopefully calling for his poor dead mate? Or—with the philosophy that comes so quickly to the short-lived little beings whose emotions are compressed into hours—was he calling for another mate to help make a home in the desert?

NEST OF DESERT SPARROW
*From Biological Survey Collection (by Permission)*

A few days afterward we got hint of an arrested *Amphispiza* tragedy. Close to camp we discovered a nest in a low tree cactus and on examination found that one side was torn out and that there was only one nestling left. The brooding

1 Published by permission of C. Hart Merriam, Chief of Biological Surve

mother, as if fearing to lose her last young one, with beautiful courage sat so close that we could hardly get sight of it—once actually letting me come up within arm's length of her. This trouble had come upon her in a tree cactus where cactus wrens find safety for their broods, and which was certainly much better than a juniper to build in, but in her case perhaps the nest was too close to the ground.

Another nest—the one shown in the picture—was probably too low also, but it was one of the best protected from above that we saw during the season, for it was wedged down in a yucca among whose slender needle-like leaves were woven the thorny stems of a catsclaw. It contained three eggs, and in the sun we noted that they looked pinkish instead of "plain greenish or bluish white." While we were taking the liberty of photographing the nest, both parents made a circle of the bushes, anxiously inspecting us, but as soon as we had withdrawn, charming little creatures that they are, one of them quickly flew over to the catsclaw beside the yucca—its crown slightly raised, its white head stripes and black throat showing handsomely, while its black tail was twitching nervously—and after looking around alertly for a moment and seeing no danger, ran down a branch of the catsclaw to the nest. We could not wait to make sure of the end of the story but went away hopeful of good fortune for the winning pair that seemed to us to have made such a wise choice for their home.

*Washington, D. C.*

## About Collecting Chests

BY FRANK STEPHENS

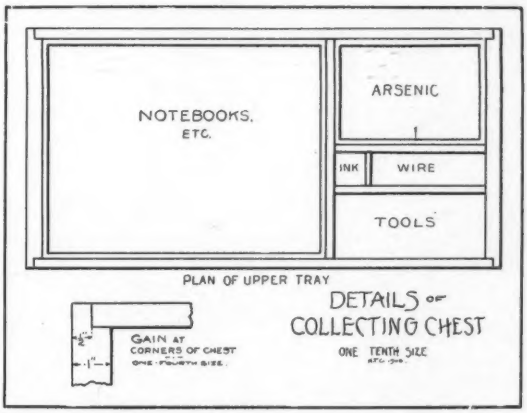
ONE of the earliest problems that the field collector encounters is that of making a convenient collecting chest. Having had a wide experience in that line during the last thirty years I may be able to give others some hints on this subject. It is not possible to make a chest that is just the thing for all classes of work and one must compromise to some extent.

A dozen years ago I found that I must have a new chest. I wanted one to carry in a wagon, and I expected to pack it occasionally over rough mountain trails, tho I have really packed it but little. I wanted to use it for drying and storing mammals as well as birds; I wanted to carry my tools and notebooks in it; and I wanted a table. I built a chest that has filled all these requirements fairly well and when I build a new one it will be on the same plan. Its principal fault is that it is rather small for general work and yet is rather large for packing on a horse. For a trip lasting more than two or three weeks provision must be made for storing skins elsewhere, but as the surplus skins will be nearly or quite dry a plain box answers all supplemental purposes.

For material I used sugar pine, selecting clear soft boards, took them to the mill and had them dressed to order. In building another chest I would use the same material, except for the front, back and bottom sides where I would prefer whitewood or poplar dressed to half an inch or a little thinner. The ends of the chest, the ends of the trays, and the lid are of inch material surfaced on both sides to about seven-eighths of an inch in thickness. The remainder of the lumber was split and surfaced on both sides, the split being a trifle one side of the middle, the thicker boards being used for the sides of the chest and the thinner ones for the bottoms of the trays.

The ends of the chest and of the trays have a gain notched in at their ends and bottom edges half their thickness and as deep as the thickness of the sides, so that the sides and bottoms can be nailed in the ends as well as thru from the sides. The trays have a hole an inch in diameter bored in the center to let the air pass as they drop in place. One can stick a finger thru the hole and lift out the tray, too, which is sometimes handy.

The outside dimensions of the chest are: Width, sixteen and a half inches; depth, including lid, fifteen and a quarter inches; length, thirty-two and a half. For wagon use alone I would prefer a length of three feet and a little greater depth. I have three full length trays in my chest. The upper tray is three and a half inches deep, the others being two and seven-eighths, the lower tray resting on cleats half an inch thick and three and three-quarters wide nailed to the ends. There is no need of a tray lying in the bottom. This bottom space I use for storing dry skins. If my chest was deeper I would make the outside depth of the two lower trays three inches and widen the cleats to fill the remainder. Give a full eighth of an inch play at side and back end of each tray. Cut a hand hole inside




the ends of the trays half an inch from the top to lift the trays out by, and a similar one on the ends of the chest outside two inches from the top; this is in addition to the usual chest handles. You will find ordinary chest handles inconvenient and likely to get broken. I got the style having staples riveted in to hold the handle. I hacksawed the handle in two and threw it away replacing it with a piece of half inch rope, which is pliable and doesn't get broken in the wagon.

I put a partition across my upper tray a little on one side of the middle. I put cleats one and a half inches wide at the ends of the longer division and made a shallow tray to fit there. In this I carry my note books, etc., and under it I put small skins. The other end I divided in the middle lengthwise, putting cleats at the end of the back half, and making a small tray to fit on these. In this small tray I pour my preservative and under it I keep various little odds and ends not in constant use, such as box of spare pens, spare shoe strings and a fish line and hooks. Those who use cornmeal in skinning would make another shallow tray for that. The front part I partitioned again. In the front compartment I keep my knives, pliers, scissors, etc., for daily use. I divided off a little space at the

inner end of the middle compartment for my bottle of carbon ink and use the remainder for spools of wire and thread.

If you figure out the depths of the trays you will find an inch of space in the depth of the chest unaccounted for. This is for my table. On the underside of a board as long and as wide as the inside of my chest and three-eighths of an inch thick I nailed a piece of half-inch lath at each end, clinching the nails. The legs of the table are also half-inch lath. They are hinged with small T-strap hinges. One pair of legs are set at the outer corners of one end and the pair at the other end are set in the width of a lath, so that they fold inside the others. A cross bar is nailed to each pair of legs just above the middle. To hold the legs in place I use the rib and brace of an old umbrella. I cut off one end of the rib an inch from the joint to act as a stop when opened out. Then I cut the other end and brace to a suitable length, heated them and flattened the ends and bent them over to make a joint. Thru these joints I passed small staples and drove them into the middle of the cross bars of the legs and into the middle of the table.

These seem slight braces but they have proved effectual. They should be made long enough to let the legs stand a little out of perpendicular. My table weighs three pounds complete. I use an umbrella rib stay for the lid of my chest also, the lower end hinging on a nail driven at the inside edge. The lid should hang back a trifle beyond the perpendicular and the stay will prevent an ordinary wind from blowing the lid down, as it would if held by a tape or cord.

Make the lid of your chest of inch stuff, as you will often want to use it as a seat. To remedy its tendency to split, plow a groove across each end three-eighths of an inch wide and an inch or more deep. Fit a tough piece of lath in this groove and glue or nail it in. This is not in the way as cleats are. Fasten the T-strap hinges and hasp with rivets instead of with screws and no one can open the chest with a pocketknife or screwdriver. You will need to countersink the screw holes to the T of your hinges on the other side, as this should be on the outside of the chest. Metal corners will add to the wear of your chest but are not indispensable. If you collect mammals you will find good soft sugar pine excellent for tray bottoms. Hard pine or redwood bottoms are exasperating material to stick pins into. Paint the outside of your chest thoroly. It pays. A hasp and padlock are better than a common lock.

*San Diego, California.*

## Birds Observed in the Krenitzin Islands, Alaska

BY RICHARD C. MCGREGOR

THE following is a list of the birds observed by me in the Krenitzin Islands, Alaska, while attached to the U. S. S. *Pathfinder* in the summer of 1901 (May 16 to September 20). Even with the best intentions nothing very remarkable could be done in the collecting line as my time was fully occupied with other work. I wish, however, that the reader could derive as much pleasure from this paper as I enjoyed in getting the material for it.

The Krenitzin Islands comprise that part of the Aleutian Chain lying between the two large islands of Unimak and Unalaska. The accompanying map (see page 118) is intended to show their size and positions. They have for the most part abrupt rocky shores but do not reach any great elevation. Where their surface is

not rocky it is covered with tundra or with long grass. Willows, the only trees, are of a very stunted type being for the most part prostrate and buried in the tundra. On Unalaska there are occasional clumps of willows which have attained the dignity of shrubs. With such conditions it is not surprising to find the land birds poorly represented in species. It is generally recognized that arctic animals and plants make up in individuals what they lack in number of species and the birds of the Krenitzin Islands are no exception. The Sandwich sparrow swarms on all the islands and the leucosticte and song sparrow are not far behind; petrels and shearwaters appear in myriads—but these will be found discussed beyond in their respective places. The summer climate of Norton Sound and of the Aleutians is delightful, and once having spent a summer in Alaska one welcomes the opportunity to go again.

I take pleasure in acknowledging my obligations to the following gentlemen: To Captain J. J. Gilbert of the *Pathfinder* for affording me every possible chance to get ashore, to Mr. G. R. Putnam chief of the Philippine Coast and Geodetic Survey for use of chart, to Mr. R. Ridgway for notes on a specimen of petrel, to Dr. Charles W. Richmond for identifying five species of birds, and to Mr. J. Grinnell for revising the nomenclature of this paper.

**Lunda cirrhata** Pallas. Tufted Puffin. During the month of June puffins were often seen in the water about the different islands and most of them seemed to be of the tufted kind. June 29 eggs were found on Unalga and July 4 fresh eggs were taken on an islet in Beaver Inlet; July 30 they were found nesting in burrows on the face and at the top of a cliff on Egg Island; they were also nesting in considerable numbers on Ugamak, August 13.

**Fratercula corniculata** (Naumann). Horned Puffin. Specimens of the horned puffin were seen, but they were less abundant than the preceding species. One was noted in English Bay on May 29 and fresh eggs were found on Round Island in Beaver Inlet on July 4; June 24 a few were seen along the Pacific side of Unalaska; August 13 the species was noted on Ugamak; young birds were seen on an islet in Akun Strait on August 30, and a single individual was noted in Akutan Bay September 1.

**Simorhynchus pygmæus** (Gmelin). Whiskered Auklet. A male from Dutch Harbor, June 8, is in worn adult plumage, the remiges particularly being very ragged; the white patch on lores is poorly marked and its connection with the long plumes over the eye is but indicated. This bird flew into the ship's dingey and was captured by one of the sailors. A fully grown male from Easy Cove, Akun, appears to have taken on the winter dress; the white lines from loral patch thru eye and below cheek are indicated but none of the long feathers remain. This specimen flew aboard ship during a fog on the night of August 21. A pair in fall plumage were taken August 19 in Akutan Harbor.

**Synthliborhamphus antiquus** (Gmelin). Ancient Murrelet. One adult male in slightly worn plumage was killed August 14 at the western side of Unimak. This individual was swimming about the ship when observed and was killed with a boat hook.

**Cepphus columba** Pallas. Pigeon Guillemot. The pigeon guillemot was seen in English Bay on May 28; a number of young birds were seen in the pass outside English Bay on June 12; about 20 were observed about Unalga on June 29; a number seen and one killed about the kelp beds off Akun, on July 28; on July 30 one was shot on Egg Island; in August and September the species was noted about Ugamak, Aektok and Akutan.

**Uria lomvia arra** (Pallas). Pallas Murre.

**Uria troile californica** (Bryant). California Murre. Murres were seen about most of the islands and two were killed in Dutch Harbor, July 15. No material was preserved except two heads which have been examined by Dr. Richmond; these represent the two species named above.

**Stercorarius pomarinus** (Temminck). Pomarine Jaeger. On September 9 a jaeger was seen bullying the gulls near Akun; it was possibly of the above species.

**Rissa tridactyla pollicaris** Ridgway. Pacific Kittiwake. June 12 a large flock of Kittiwakes was feeding in the tide-rip outside of English Bay; a few were noted August 22 near Avatanak, and in September near Akutan.

**Larus glaucescens** Naumann. Glaucous-winged Gull. Several birds of this species were seen on Akun June 5 and a dozen or so were flying about the ships in Dutch Harbor June 19. July 4 a number of nests were examined on Round Island in Beaver Inlet; they were well made with a good hollow, the material being moss. Many of the nests were near the water on broken rocks, others were in the grass higher up on the island. All the eggs obtained were heavily incubated and several nests contained small young. Three eggs was the usual complement. July 28 a landing was made on a rocky islet off Akun; puffins and gulls abounded, fully one hundred of the latter flying about. Old nests were found and a nearly full grown young bird was seen. On Ugamak, Angust 13, old birds were teaching the young to fly. The species was also noted in small numbers on Egg, Tigalda, Unimak, Avatanak, Aektok and Akutan.

**Larus philadelphia** (Ord). Bonaparte Gull. A wing found in Tigalda Bay August 5 and a bird seen the next day near the entrance of the bay were probably of this species. August 12 about 30 were seen off Ugamak; August 15, one was noted off Tigalda and four off Poa; two days later the species was abundant in Dutch Harbor. No specimens were taken but I feel that these records refer to the Bonaparte gull.

**Xema sabinei** (Sabine). Sabine Gull. The only individual seen of this fine gull was killed from the beach on Unimak, August 14. Legs and feet dark brown, bill black, its tip yellow, inside of mouth orange.

**Puffinus tenuirostris** (Temminck). Slender-billed Shearwater. On June 6 and 7 immense flocks of slender-billed shearwaters were seen in the waters near Easy Cove and Poa Island and June 21 a large flock was circling over the water outside Kalekta Bay and possibly feeding on fish driven to the surface by whales as several of the latter were seen in the vicinity. June 24 there was a large body of these birds near Cape Cheerful. August 15 great numbers were seen west of Unalga and a few off Unalga the next day.

Under date of August 20 I find the following respecting this bird as seen off Akutan: "Water like glass this morning and *Puffinus* thick around ship. Men catching them with fish-hooks. Two were caught from the foot of the gangway as they followed a boat coming alongside. Others were knocked over with a boat-hook. They are quarrelsome and voracious. Under water they use their wings as much as their feet. All appear to be of one species." One of our Australian sailors called them "mutton-birds" wherein he had the genus correctly. August 25, when off Aektok, a few shearwaters were seen about the ship and three dead specimens were found on the beach.

Altho fulmars are mentioned by Turner as occuring in "hundreds of thousands" off Unimak Pass, I never saw anything among the Krenitzin Islands that looked like a fulmar. The following from "Contributions to the Natural History of Alaska," page 129, records all Turner saw of the slender-billed shearwater:

"With these birds [*Fulmarus glacialis glupischa*] are associated in a manner, another bird of which I obtained at Amchitka Island, a single specimen which had been thrown up dead by the sea and so far advanced in decomposition that to lift it separated the members of its body. This dead bird resembled those associated with the Pacific Fulmars and was, so far as possible to identify it, a specimen of *Puffinus tenuirostris* Temm."

**Oceanodroma leucorhoa** (Vieillot). Leach Petrel.[1] A petrel of this species was taken with a fresh egg from a burrow at the top of a cliff on Egg Island, July 30. No other examples were seen at any time.

Mr. Robert Ridgway very kindly examined the bird and under date of September 30, 1902, wrote concerning it as follows: "The species is *Oceanodroma leucorhoa*, not *cryptoleucura*. The latter has the tips of upper tail-coverts *black*, not sooty gray, much broader, with edge running straight across instead of obliquely; the bases of the rectrices much more extensively, abruptly and more purely white. In fact a very different looking bird. Your difficulty has resulted from imperfect descriptions of *O. leucorhoa* which (my own included) ignore the dusky tip to the coverts, which, however, I find on examination of numerous specimens, is always present *unless worn away*, which is very often the case."

**Oceanodroma furcata** (Gmelin). Forked-tailed Petrel. The fork-tailed petrel was first seen July 12 when several birds with their eggs were taken on Egg Island; July 30 two downy young were taken from burrows on the same island.

August 19 the ship was anchored in Akutan Harbor, Akutan Island, and during the evening there was a heavy fog. This was the first time I ever saw birds come aboard ship in any considerable numbers and I shall transcribe my notes made at the time as being of more interest than anything I can write from memory.

"August 19.—At about 9:30 a petrel was brought down [to my room] by the quartermaster; in a short time three more and then an auklet were produced by Davie [Q. M.]. Going on deck I found *O. furcata* flying about the mast-head light—there were probably five or six in sight. In a short time I had a dozen laid out. There was a moderate fog at first and as this thickened the birds increased in numbers. Fully a dozen were in sight like so many moths. They struck the rigging, bridge, and wheel-house and fluttered to the deck in a dazed condition. The fox [a young animal caught by the men and kept on deck] soon had a dozen or more in and about his box and the cats were running them over the deck. On all sides of the ship their cries were heard. They flew into the chart room, the fire room and down the ventilator to the main deck. Even from my room in the lower wardroom their cries are plainly audible."

This was the only night the birds came aboard ship during the whole summer.

**Phalacrocorax pelagicus** Pallas. Pelagic Cormorant. First seen May 16 when one was noted just outside of Dutch Harbor; May 29, eight to ten were seen on rocks in English Bay; a few individuals were also noted at Unalga, June 29; in Tigalda Bay, August 5; on Ugamak, August 13. No specimens were taken but those seen were probably of the above species.

**Merganser serrator** (Linnæus). Red-breasted Merganser. Three sets and a female of this species were obtained from Round Island in Beaver Inlet, July 4. Some of the birds deserted their nests as our boat reached the island. The first nest containing ten hard-set eggs was placed on the ground at the end of a passage way thru the high grass, somewhat resembling a mammal runway. The eggs were covered, being buried in the loose grass and down which constituted the nest. The second nest, containing ten heavily-incubated eggs, was in thick tall

[1] This is probably the form (*O. beali*) described by Emerson in THE CONDOR for March, 1906, page 54.—J. G

PORTION OF ALEUTIAN ISLANDS, ALASKA, TO SHOW POINTS REFERRED TO BY R. C. MCGREGOR

grass but the eggs were not covered. The third set was not complete as there were but four eggs and these were fresh. The old duck was flushed from this nest.

**Nettion carolinensis** (Gmelin). Green-winged Teal. In English Bay, June 16, a female of the green-winged teal was shot as she rose from a nest containing eight fresh eggs. The nest was on the ground beneath the overhanging trunk of a twisted willow; it was thinly furnished with down about the top and the eggs rested on the ground. Inside diameter of nest about 5.5 inches; depth 3.5 inches. The female has breast and belly somewhat spotted.

**Harelda hyemalis** (Linnæus). Old-squaw. A female old-squaw was killed July 20 at the edge of a kelp bed in Kelp Bay, Tigalda. The primaries were so badly worn that she was unable to fly.

**Histrionicus histrionicus** (Linnæus). Harlequin Duck. On May 19 harlequin ducks were abundant in the waters of Dutch Harbor and a male and female were killed. The birds were in bunches of from four to a dozen and very wild.

**Somateria v-nigra** Gray ? Paçific Eider. A number of ducks in pairs seen off Unalga, June 29, were probably of this species which has been recorded from Dutch Harbor by Dall.

**Phalaropus lobatus** (Linnæus)? Northern Phalarope. Phalaropes were met with feeding in the kelp near Ugamak August 13, and several were seen near Akutan, September 17; but at no time could I obtain a specimen.

**Arquatella couesi** Ridgway. Aleutian Sandpiper. The Aleutian sandpiper was obtained on Tigalda, August 5; on Unimak, August 14; in English Bay, May 27. This species is extremely fearless and feeds about the tops of wet rocks exposed by low tide; at such times many individuals may be killed with a single discharge of the gun.

**Arquatella ptilocnemis** (Coues). Pribilof Sandpiper. The Pribilof sandpiper was very scarce and was taken but twice, on Unimak, August 14 and on Tigalda, August 5.

**Actodromas minutilla** (Vieillot). Least Sandpiper. The least sandpiper was not common; a male was obtained on Amaknak, May 17; on Tigalda, August 5, one was taken on the beach and four were seen on a small fresh water pool. One of my specimens was sent to the National Museum and identified by Dr. Richmond.

**Heteractitis incanus** (Gmelin). Wandering Tattler. The wandering tattler was but rarely observed; June 2, two examples in summer plumage were killed at the head of English Bay, Unalaska. One of these birds was unusually fearless allowing me to approach to within eight feet.

**Ægialitis semipalmata** Bonaparte. Semipalmated Plover. A male and female were taken in English Bay on May 27. Two immature birds were killed on Unimak August 14; in these specimens the feathers of top of head, back, lesser and median wing coverts, and tertiaries are narrowly edged with pale tan.

**Arenaria interpres** (Linnæus). Turnstone. Turnstones were seen on Unimak August 14, and two were killed on Amaknak August 17.

**Hæmatopus bachmani** Audubon. Black Oyster-catcher. June 5 near Akun four flew about the ship, and June 29 a few were seen on Unalga; July 4, a half grown young was caught on the beach in Beaver Inlet; the species was also seen about Aektok July 28 and August 25. This is the only species seen on the Baby Islands.

**Lagopus rupestris nelsoni** Stejneger. Nelson Ptarmigan. Nelson ptarmigan were first seen May 28 on the shores of English Bay and three were noted in the same locality on June 2; a female killed at this time contained large eggs, the set having been partly deposited. July 12 six eggs were taken from a nest on

Egg Island; the nest was a mass of grass, leaves and a few feathers. In color the eggs are dull creamy brown overlaid with irregular spots of dark reddish brown, almost black. The larger markings tend to form a ring near the large end of each egg, but this ring is rather poorly defined. The eggs measure as follows, in millimeters and tenths: 42.3 x 30.1; 42.4 x 30.6; 40.8 x 30.5; 41.7 x 31.3; 42.4 x 31.8; 45.2 x 31.4. Incubation was begun.

July 30 two birds were shot on Egg Island near the lake.

**Haliæetus leucocephalus alascanus** C. H. Townsend. Northern Bald Eagle. Northern bald eagles were seen at Dutch Harbor May 17 and were numerous in English Bay May 28. One of the men brought in two young a week old and one addled egg; these were taken in English Bay June 2. The egg is dull creamy white and is covered with numerous small pits; it measures 79.3 x 60.0 mm. Bald eagles were noted on Akun, June 5, and on Unimak, July 23.

**Falco peregrinus pealei** Ridgway. Peale Falcon. Two individuals of the Peale falcon were seen about the high cliffs on Egg Island July 30. An adult female was killed; iris dark, feet pale green, claws black, cere and base of bill pale greenish blue, terminal half of bill dark horny; this specimen has been identified by Dr. Richmond. July 3 a duck hawk was seen about the cliffs at entrance to Beaver Inlet. August 3 two very dark duck hawks flew over the ship in Unalga Pass.

**Asio accipitrinus** (Pallas). Short-eared Owl. A specimen of the short-eared owl was taken May 19 on Amaknak Island.

**Corvus corax principalis** Ridgway. Northern Raven. The following notes were made on the raven: English Bay, May 28, a nest with young; Akutan June 7, a young raven killed; Unimak July 23, individuals seen; Egg Island July 30, several seen; Akun August 11, many ravens.

**Leucosticte tephrocotis griseonucha** (Brandt). Aleutian Leucosticte. This rosy-finch is one of the few species of land birds to be found in the Krenitzin Islands, and it is also among the most interesting. At the time of our arrival at Dutch Harbor, May 16, they were already mated and from examination of specimens I believe some had already built nests. If one of a pair were killed the other remained near by and was easily taken. Individuals of this species were seen or taken as follows: Unalga June 29, one in worn plumage taken; Dutch Harbor July 16, very abundant in scattered flocks and usually seen about rocky outcroppings or bluffs, four to a dozen birds together. They were numerous along an old fence where young were being fed. Adults, or at least birds in full plumage were much more numerous than the gray young birds. Three adults and one young were killed at one shot and two were often taken at one shot. Tigalda July 20, several seen; Unimak July 23, abundant and shy; Aektok, August 25, abundant.

**Acanthis linaria linaria** (Linnæus). Common Redpoll. June 2 a redpoll was killed in a willow bush near English Bay, and June 16 in the vicinity of Dutch Harbor, a bird was found brooding three small young, their eyes not yet open. The nest was 33 inches from the ground in a small willow and was placed against the trunk of the shrub. The nest was composed of dead grass and weed stalks and a few fine roots, lined with white feathers from ptarmigan or gull. Cavity deep and feathers loose so as to conceal the young. Outside diameter 3.5 inches, outside depth a trifle less. The female flitted about and kept calling while I was near. This nest was visited again June 30 and was empty.

**Passerina nivalis townsendi** (Ridgway). Pribilof Snowflake. The Pribilof snowflake was by no means abundant and was usually found on the hills and around the old snow banks. On May 21 I went to the top of the hill on Amaknak in

order to put up a signal; one snowflake was killed and two more seen during a flurry of snow. June 2 a pair killed on a snow bank at the top of a high hill. On Aektok August 25 two males in moult and two young birds in soft young plumage were taken; young in flocks of five or six were observed along the beach.

**Calcarius lapponicus alascensis** Ridgway. Alaska Longspur. The Alaska longspur was first noted on Akun, June 5, when one was heard. A good series was obtained on the sand-spit in Dutch Harbor, June 19; these had the plumage dirty from living in a patch of burnt grass which was set on fire ten days previously. Longspurs were abundant on Tigalda July 20, and they were often heard on Unimak July 23, where one male was taken. On Tigalda again, August 5, a fully feathered young bird was killed. Both adults and juveniles were abundant on Akun, August 11. September 18, a young male was caught on deck about five miles off shore from Unimak.

**Passerculus sandwichensis sandwichensis** (Gmelin). Sandwich Sparrow. The Sandwich sparrow was abundant on every one of the Krenitzin Islands, and on most of them it fairly swarmed, outnumbering all other land birds combined. If everything else in the way of specimens failed I could always fill up with "Ammodramus." With so many of the birds present one could hardly fail to take a few eggs at the right time and I secured four good sets with their nests.

June 27 in Beaver Inlet I took a set of four eggs, incubation slight. Dissection of female proved that set was complete. The nest was sunk in the ground flush with surrounding moss. June 28 a set of five slightly incubated eggs was taken at English Bay. July 20, on Tigalda, five moderately incubated eggs were collected. They measured in millimeters as follows: 20.0 x 15.3; 19.6 x 15.1; 20.4 x 15.5; 20.0 x 15.3; 19.6 x 15.1. The entire nest is composed of uniformly sized, dry, yellow grass-stems and was sunk in dry moss on the ground. The nest measures: Inside depth, 45.0 mm.; outside depth 70.0; inside diameter 65.0; outside diameter, 100.0. A set of four eggs was taken on Akun, July 28. At Dutch Harbor July 16 this sparrow was abundant. Young birds with partly grown tails were flushed in numbers from long grass and dense growths of lupines. These were usually difficult to hit as they flew but a short distance. The adults were in badly worn plumage. As a female taken at this date and one the day before contained eggs it seems probable that two broods are raised.

The Sandwich sparrow was met with on the following islands: Unalaska, Amaknak, Unalga, Tigalda, Unimak, Akutan, Akun, Egg and Aektok.

**Melospiza cinerea cinerea** (Gmelin). Aleutian Song Sparrow. When first encountered the Aleutian song sparrow is a great surprise to the ornithologist who is familiar only with the comparatively minute varieties found in the United States. In size he calls to mind a towhee, and as in his habitat there is neither salt marsh nor tangle of blackberry vines, his habits are different from those of the allied species of the genus. This big song sparrow often feeds about rocky points or may at times be found on the sea beach, a genuine beach comber. In numbers of individuals this species is in the same class with the Aleutian leucosticte, these two combined being outnumbered by the Sandwich sparrow. The worn breeding plumage and the newly acquired fall dress are very distinct altho the pattern is always the same; the former is lighter and rather rusty in general appearance, while the latter is darker and decidedly more blackish brown. The species was noted on the following islands: Unalaska, Amaknak, Akun, Unalga, Egg, Unimak, Tigalda, Aektok and Akutan.

A nest containing three eggs was taken at English Bay May 28. It was composed of coarse dry grass with a lining of fine soft grass and was placed in the face

of a low cliff. Outside depth 100 mm.; inside depth 60; outside diameter 140; inside diameter 60. The eggs measure: 24.0 mm. by 19.8 mm.; 25.0 by 18.5; 24.7 by 18.9.

In English Bay, June 16, adults were taken in worn breeding plumage, the tails badly abraded. On Tigalda August 3, adult male and female taken in moult; these had new tails half grown and the following primaries new in each, wing: 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. A few new feathers on back, head and flanks. On Akun July 28, an adult with very short new tail was killed. Young in first full plumage were taken on Unalga June 29.

**Hirundo erythrogaster palmeri** Grinnell. Alaska Barn Swallow. The Alaska barn swallow was seen about English Bay, Unalaska, and at no other locality. On June 16 two flew over, and again on June 19 a few were seen. June 30 twenty or more were flying over the flats and a nest containing one egg was found on a rocky shelf in the face of a sea cliff. Specimens of this swallow were collected, one of which constitutes the type of *palmeri*.

At Unimak, July 23, four or five swallows flew over which looked like *Iridoprocne bicolor*.

**Anthus pensilvanicus** (Latham). American Pipit. The pipit was first encountered at Dutch Harbor where a male with enlarged testes was taken on May 17; an adult female was taken in the same locality on May 21. On Unimak one adult and one young were killed July 23; on the same island August 14, birds of this species were common feeding in dead seaweed along the beach and four young in fresh fall plumage were taken. On Aektok August 25, one young bird in fresh fall plumage was killed.

**Cinclus mexicanus unicolor** (Bonaparte). American Dipper. The dipper seems to be very scarce and there are in fact but few places where this species would feel at home. One was seen on a small creek in English Bay June 2, and again on June 16. No specimens were collected.

**Olbiorchilus alascensis** (Baird). Alaska Wren. This mite of a wren was found in rock slides dodging in and out of crevices so as to make it a matter of some difficulty to kill one.

The species was found on Amaknak May 19, and again August 17 when four were taken near the beach. One was taken on Aektok on August 25, and one was seen on Akutan September 1.

## A List of Birds Collected Between Monterey and San Simeon in the Coast Range of California

BY HUBERT O. JENKINS

IN the summer of 1905 the author in company with a friend, Lloyd Newland of Palo Alto, made a collecting expedition thru southern Monterey County. We left the town of Monterey on June 6, and reached San Simeon (San Luis Obispo County) on July 20, going by way of the coast trail and returning by boat. We took three pack animals to carry supplies, and by stopping for about a week at the end of every two or three days' travel, we are able to make a fairly thoro survey of the coast fauna, particular attention being paid to the birds and small

mammals. Two hundred and fifty-two specimens of birds, a few large mammals, besides 312 specimens of small mammals, some reptiles and a good many scraps of plants were collected, the latter only for identification as no time could be allowed for the preparation of herbarium specimens.

I am indebted to Professor W. R. Dudley for identification of most of the plants and aid in the preparation of the accompanying map.

South of Monterey the main ridge of the coast range, or, as it is here called, the Santa Lucia range, lies very near the coast. The descent therefore from heights of 3000 to 5000 feet to sea-level within 5 or 6 miles is very great and the deep canyons cutting this western slope add to its extreme rough character.

North of the Big Sur where the country is less mountainous and south of Mt. Mars where the range takes a sudden turn inland leaving a wide level country about San Simeon, there is considerable farming done and good roads are to be found; but between the Big Sur and San Carpojo on the western side of the range there are no roads and very little farming is done besides cattle raising.

The region traversed was particularly interesting in that it was found to be the southern limit of the Humid Coast Belt of California. Several northern plants and animals find their southern limits in this place and some northern forms inter-grade thru this region with closely allied southern forms.

That part of Monterey county between Salinas Valley and the coast, can be roughly divided into two very different faunal areas, namely the interior pine regions and the coast region proper. It was in this coast region that we spent most of our time, visiting the pine regions only on the headwaters of Big Creek for a week and on the ridge above Partington canyon and the ridge above Spruce Creek for a day each. The coast region is much like other parts of the California coast belt but is much narrower than the northern coast belt and the humid conditions are much more restricted.

PART OF MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, TO SHOW LOCALITIES REFERRED TO BY H. O. JENKINS

The redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*), a typical form of the humid coast forest, was found on nearly all of the creeks on the west side of the first ridge of the coast range south of Carmel Bay, as far as a small canyon just north of Salmon Creek, and was greatly restricted by local conditions.

Near the coast (within half a mile of the shore) the redwoods are reduced in numbers and size and the few growing at the canyon mouths are greatly gnarled and weather-beaten, being actually reduced in some cases to shrubs, growing close together, their matted tops presenting an even surface to the wind, and in other cases to scrawny trees with the side toward the ocean devoid of foliage. Farther back from the shore are dense groves of the fine large trees, extending up the bottoms and south sides of the canyons or those sides which do not receive the direct rays of the afternoon sun. A few redwoods straggle beyond these limits to higher altitudes but only on streams of running water, and were not found to reach the summit of the first ridge of the coast range.

That the redwoods do not grow as far inland as they do north of Monterey is no doubt due to the difference in latitude and to the greater height of these southern mountains which more effectually cuts off fog and rain from the interior and also to the character of these mountains which are steeper and rockier, thus shedding the rain quicker.

Above the redwood groves there was generally a belt of California lilac (*Ceanothus thyrsiflorus*) and then a dense growth of brake (*Pteris aquilina* var. *lanugenosa*), thimble-berry (*Rubus parviflorus*), blue lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*) and monkey-flower (*Diplacus glutinosus*), while on the opposite side of the canyon an assemblage of plants suited to the more arid conditions was found. Chief of such plants were old man brush (*Artemisia californica*), sage (*Audibertia stachyoides*) and *Baccharis pilularis*, with chamisal (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) at higher elevations. The ridges and hill-tops were generally devoid of trees or shrubs, making excellent pasturage at this time of year.

Outside of the main canyons, the steep slopes were covered, up to a thousand feet above the sea-level, with a variety of brush and above this the exposed slopes were barren. This belt of brush was evidently dependent on the fogs, which rose only to about a thousand feet on many mornings of our trip, and was composed mainly of sage, old man brush, yellow lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*), and some California lilac, blue lupine, monkey-flower and *Baccharis pilularis*.

Other notable plants in the coast region were: The California laurel (*Umbellularia californica*), associating mostly with the redwoods but found scattered on certain wind-swept hillsides in a dwarfed condition; tan-bark oak (*Quercus densiflora*), also associating with the redwoods in considerable numbers; buckthorn (*Rhamnus crocea*), found constituting a great part of the chaparral between Spruce Creek and San Carpojo; and the Spanish bayonet (*Yucca whippleyi*) which grew very abundantly on the high rocky mountain ridges.

Also growing in suitable localities were: Poison-oak (*Rhus diversiloba*), coffee berry (*Rhamnus californica*), maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), Christmas berry (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), and blackberry (*Rubus vitifolius*).

The Douglas spruce (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*), a rather characteristic tree of the northern humid coast belt, was entirely absent from all points except on Spruce and Ralston Creeks where a few trees seemed to flourish well.

Pines were often seen from a distance on the mountain ridges and extending down a short ways on the western side.

The yellow pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) was identified on the ridge above Partington canyon and on the headwaters of Big Creek and of Spruce Creek; the big-cone pine (*Pinus coulteri*) was noted at Partington's and on the headwaters of Big Creek, and the digger pine (*Pinus sabiniana*) on the high ridges between Spruce Creek and Mt. Mars.

On Cone Peak and Twin Peak, sugar pines (*Pinus lambertiana*) were abundant and intermingled with these were a number of silver firs (*Abies venusta*).

The Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) was not noted between Mal Paso Creek and San Simeon.

In all, 252 specimens and 52 species of birds were collected. Besides these, notes were taken on 16 species not collected, making 68 birds noted on the whole trip. It is to be regretted that several species represented by good series from pertinent localities along the route, were in such worn and faded plumage as to make identification doubtful and in some cases more accurate weighing of subspecific characters well-nigh impossible. However in the annotated list following, species and varieties are identified as closely as possible and the value of the evidence also given.

The following preliminary lists serve to show the character of the avifauna in the district studied.

NORTHERN FORMS FOUND IN THIS REGION

*Oreortyx pictus pictus* (approaching *O. p. plumiferus*)
*Lophortyx californicus californicus* (approaching *L. c. vallicolus*)
*Selasphorus alleni* (found only as far south as Sur River)
*Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli* (found only as far south as San Carpojo)
*Junco pinosus* (found only as far south as Big Creek)
*Melospiza cinerea santæcrucis* (typical as far south as Big Creek)
*Pipilo maculatus falcifer* (typical as far south as San Carpojo)
*Pipilo crissalis crissalis* (typical as far south as San Carpojo)
*Toxostoma redivivum redivivum* (typical as far south as San Carpojo)
*Olbiorchilus hiemalis pacificus* (found only as far south as Big Creek)
*Certhia americana occidentalis* (found only as far south as Big Creek)
*Penthestes barlowi* (found only as far south as the Little Sur)

SOUTHERN AND SIERRAN FORMS FOUND IN THIS REGION

*Gymnogyps californianus*
*Corvus corax sinuatus* (reported occasionally)
*Piranga ludoviciana* (rare)
*Mimus polyglottos leucopterus* (San Carpojo)
*Thryomanes bewicki drymœcus* (far from *spilurus*, approaching *charienturus*)
*Sitta carolinensis aculeata* (pine zone at headwaters of Big Creek)
*Penthestes gambeli* (pine zone at headwaters of Big Creek)
*Chamæa fasciata fasciata* (approaching *intermedia*)

FORMAL LIST OF SPECIES

**Ægialitis vocifera.** Killdeer. Quite common along the seashore of the San Simeon flats.

**Oreortyx p. pictus.** Painted Quail. Most abundant in the Ceanothus thickets at higher altitudes (above 2000 feet). We saw a good many at the head of Big Creek and above camp in Partington canyon. They seldom flew but when hunted the flocks of six or a dozen birds seemed to depend upon escaping among the dark shadows of the underbrush for which they were so well colored. Once I passed within ten feet of a male that was calling softly to a brood of very young chicks. The chicks disappeared among the grass and leaves but the old bird remained motionless until I had gone away. The following morning another male was found leading a brood of young along the trail. In neither case was the female parent seen.

List of specimens collected: No. 644, June 22, Partington canyon, Ad. ♂ with brood of young; 665, June 23, Partington canyon, Ad. ♂ with brood of young; 667, 668, 669, June 23, Partington canyon, young of No. 665; 674, June 23, Partington canyon, Ad. ♀; 675, June 27, Big Creek, Ad. ♂; 713 July 1, Big Creek, Ad. ♀.

These are probably nearer *pictus* than *plumiferus* but wear and fading of the plumage makes determination doubtful.

**Lophortyx c. californicus.** California Quail. Very common on the brushy hillsides and often retreating into the redwood canyons. Broods of very small young seen on June 14. On July 15 several birds in immature plumage were seen in flocks with adults.

Four males and one female in worn summer plumage were taken. It is difficult to tell whether these should be referred to *californicus* or *vallicola* because of the worn condition of the plumage. They seem to be intermediates, maybe averaging nearer *californicus*.

**Columba fasciata.** Band-tailed Pigeon. One seen on the Little Sur, June 13, and one at Posts, June 16. Seen several times in ones and twos flying over Partington canyon, and on Mill Creek, south of Lucia P. O., we saw a small flock of 4 or 5 on July 11. One taken at Partington's, June 9, had its crop stuffed with madroña berries. Mr. Stevens, a resident in Partington canyon, says that the pigeons at some seasons feed so largely on madroña berries that the flesh becomes discolored.

**Zenaidura macroura.** Mourning Dove. Seen occasionally. Noted at Posts, Big Creek and Arroyo San Carpojo.

**Gymnogyps californianus.** Condor. On reaching Villa canyon at dusk July 18, we saw eight or ten condors roosting in a grove of tall redwoods. None were secured.

**Cathartes aura.** Turkey Vulture. Often seen over the whole route.

**Buteo borealis calurus.** Western Red-tailed Hawk. Common. Especially numerous on Big Creek. The great number of grasshoppers on the open hillsides probably attracted the hawks.

**Bubo virginianus pacificus.** Pacific Horned Owl. Heard at night on the Little Sur.

**Geococcyx californianus.** Road-runner. Seen at San Carpojo.

**Ceryle alcyon.** Belted Kingfisher. Noted on the Little Sur, Salmon Creek and at San Carpojo.

**Dryobates villosus hyloscopus.** Cabanis Woodpecker. Rarely seen in the redwood canyons. Fairly common in the pines on upper Big Creek, where two specimens were taken.

**Melanerpes formicivorus bairdi.** California Woodpecker. Abundant in all wooded districts. Two specimens taken.

**Colaptes cafer collaris.** Red-shafted Flicker. Seen in all wooded districts. Very abundant in the lower (and more moist) Ceanothus hillsides. Two specimens taken.

**Phalænoptilus nuttalli californicus.** Dusky Poor-will. Often heard at dusk on the Artemesia slopes of the Little Sur. One adult male taken at that place, June 12.

**Aeronautes melanoleucus.** White-throated Swift. Noted occasionally. A number seen flying over the hillsides just south of Big Creek.

**Calypte anna.** Anna Hummingbird. Often seen on the sunny slopes along the whole route. Collected at Big Creek, Mt. Mars and San Carpojo.

**Selasphorus alleni.** Allen Hummingbird. Two males taken on the Little Sur.

**Tyrannus verticalis.** Arkansas Kingbird. An adult male collected at Partington's. Noted several times on Big Creek.

**Myiarchus c. cinerascens.** Ash-throated Flycatcher. Two adult females. taken, one at Big Creek and the other at Mt. Mars.

**Sayornis nigricans.** Black Phœbe. Common in all open places. More abundant in the lower level countries than in the mountains. Two specimens taken.

**Contopus borealis.** Olive-sided Flycatcher. Several seen between Partington's and Slate's on June 25 and one noted on the open hillside at Big Creek, June 27. An adult male and adult female taken on the Little Sur on June 11 and 14 respectively.

**Contopus r. richardsoni.** Western Wood Pewee. Fairly common in the pines on upper Big Creek. Three specimens taken.

**Empidonax difficilis.** Western Flycatcher. Noted on the Little Sur and at Big Creek. Five specimens taken.

**Otocoris alpestris actia** Oberholser. California Horned-lark. Quite common in the open fields from Monterey to the Big Sur and at San Simeon. Five specimens secured.

**Pica nuttalli.** Yellow-billed Magpie. Mr. Stevens stated that magpies are now rarely seen, altho they used to be common about his place.

**Cyanocitta stelleri frontalis.** Blue-fronted Jay. Very abundant in all redwood canyons and in the pine forests; also scattering out into neighboring oak and Ceanothus regions. On Mt. Mars, south of the redwood limit, the jays were also common, inhabiting mostly the higher wooded canyons (sycamores, oaks and laurels). Not found at San Carpojo or on the San Simeon flats. Eleven adults and six immatures taken in all, at the Little Sur, Partington canyon and Big Creek, Comparing these with summer birds from Santa Cruz and from the Sierras, I find my series to be intermediate between *frontalis* and *carbonacea* but nearer *frontalis* having the back and abdomen somewhat lighter and the frontal spots more conspicuous than in the Santa Cruz birds. Intergradation between these two forms probably covers a large area and its center may be at Monterey.

**Aphelocoma c. californica.** California Jay. Seen all along the route. Less common in the Redwoods and at high elevations. Two immatures in fresh summer plumage and three adults in extremely worn and faded plumage secured.

**Corvus corax sinuatus.** American Raven. Mr. Stevens, a resident at Partington canyon said that once some years ago, a flock of ravens came in to that locality and pulled up an entire field of corn that had been planted a short time before. The owner of the field then killed one of the ravens, whereupon the rest gathered together and after holding a great "pow-wow," flew away and have never been seen since!

**Corvus brachyrhynchos hesperis** (Ridgway). California Crow. A few seen on the Little Sur and at Partington's.

**Sturnella magna neglecta.** Western Meadowlark. Common in the Carmel Valley and on the San Simeon flats. A few seen between the Carmel and Little Sur rivers and one at Pacific Valley.

**Euphagus cyanocephalus.** Brewer Blackbird. Abundant in Carmel Valley, on Mal Paso Creek and on the San Simeon flats. Not seen in the intervening country. One female taken at San Simeon.

**Carpodacus purpureus californicus.** California Purple Finch. Not uncommon on the Little Sur and in the pines at Big Creek. Four males and one female taken.

**Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis.** House Finch. Noted all along the route. Two females taken at Mt. Mars.

**Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus** Oberholser. Green-backed Goldfinch. Noted at Partington canyon, Big Creek and in Pacific Valley. Two adult males in worn summer plumage secured.

**Spinus p. pinus.** Pine Siskin. Seen occasionally. An adult male taken on the Little Sur June 14 and an adult male and female at Big Creek July 27.

**Chondestes grammacus strigatus.** Western Lark Sparrow. Fairly abundant on all open grassy hillsides from Carmel to Mt. Mars. Four specimens secured.

**Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli.** Nuttall Sparrow. Abundant in the narrow belt of yellow lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*) which lies along the coast from Monterey to San Carpojo. Also found as far inland as the blue lupine (*Lupinus albifrons*) extends, which is sometimes two or three miles up the canyons on the shady sides. Found nowhere else. Six adults and eight immatures secured.

**Spizella socialis arizonæ.** Western Chipping Sparrow. Fairly common in the pines on upper Big Creek. Four adults and one immature secured at that place.

**Junco pinosus.** Point Pinos Junco. Noted as far south as Big Creek where a nest of four eggs, incubation partial, was taken near the forks in the redwood forest on June 26. The nest was placed on the ground, partially hidden by trailing roots, grasses and blackberry vines. Juncos were not very abundant in the redwood canyons, but in the brush at the edge of the pines higher up, they were fairly common.

**Aimophila r. ruficeps.** Rufous-crowned Sparrow. Quite abundant on the sage and Artemesia slopes from Posts to Mt. Mars. The birds were breeding at this time, for many immatures were seen between June 16 and July 18. Eight adults in very worn plumage and eleven young in various plumages from juvenile to partail first winter were secured.

**Melospiza cinerea santæcrucis** (Grinnell). Santa Cruz Song Sparrow. Noted all along the route but not very abundant. Seen in the dense brush (willow, blackberry, etc.) at the mouths of streams and about springs higher up. Two adults and three immatures secured. I have submitted these to Mr. J. Grinnell and he pronounces them typical *santæcrucis.*

**Pipilo maculatus falcifer** McGregor. San Francisco Towhee. More abundant than the California towhee. One immature, four adults in brown first year plumage and five adults in full black plumage taken. All are considerably worn but show no differences from worn Palo Alto specimens.

**Pipilo c. crissalis.** California Towhee. Common everywhere except in the canyon bottoms. Five adults and one immature collected.

**Zamelodia melanocephala.** Black-headed Grosbeak. Noted in the redwood canyons. Common in the oaks of upper Big Creek and at Mt. Mars. Seen at San Carpojo. Three adults and three immatures secured.

**Cyanospiza amœna.** Lazuli Bunting. Abundant on all the dryer hillsides from Monterey to San Carpojo. Five adult males and two adult females secured.

**Piranga ludoviciana.** Western Tanager. An adult male taken July 12, in the yellow pine forest at Los Burros mines on Spruce Creek.

**Progne subis hesperia.** Western Martin. A number of flocks were seen flying in the vicinity of Big Creek and at Pacific Valley. Several pairs were found occupying hollow pine trees on upper Big Creek. Two males secured on Big Creek.

**Petrochelidon l. lunifrons.** Cliff Swallow. A female shot at Mal Paso Creek. Others noted at the same place.

**Tachycineta thalassina lepida.** Violet-green Swallow. Seen occasionally along the whole route.

**Vireo h. huttoni.** Hutton Vireo. A specimen taken among the alders of upper Big Creek was the only one seen.

**Wilsonia pusilla chryseola** Ridgway. Golden Pileolated Warbler. Fairly common on the Little Sur where five adults were taken. Not seen at any other locality.

**Cinclus mexicanus unicolor** (Bonaparte). American Dipper. Noted on the Little Sur and on Big Creek.

**Mimus polyglottos leucopterus.** Western Mockingbird. One seen on the San Simeon flats just south of San Carpojo.

**Toxostoma r. redivivum.** California Thrasher. Noted occasionally on the dry brushy slopes. More abundant at Mt. Mars than at other localities. Three immatures secured.

**Thryomanes bewicki drymœcus** Oberholser. Sacramento Wren. Fairly common along the whole route. Six immatures in first summer plumage and one adult in very worn summer plumage secured (Little Sur, Big Creek and Mt. Mars). I have submitted the series to Mr. J. Grinnell for identification and after allowing for wear he places them under *drymœcus*, yet stating that there is little from which to judge a distinction from *charienturus*.

**Troglodytes aedon parkmani.** Western House Wren. Noted on the Little Sur, Partington canyon and Big Creek. Five immatures in fall plumage taken.

**Olbiorchilus hiemalis pacificus.** Western Winter Wren. Often seen and heard in the redwood canyons from Monterey to the Little Sur. One noted on Big Creek June 26. Two specimens taken on the Little Sur.

**Certhia americana occidentalis.** California Creeper. One collected at Partington's. Fairly common among the redwoods on Big Creek where a flock of immatures were seen on June 30. Three adults and two immatures taken.

**Sitta carolinensis aculeata.** Slender-billed Nuthatch. Fairly common among the pines on the ridges above Big Creek. Four immature females secured between July 4 and 9.

**Bæolophus i. inornatus.** Plain Titmouse. Fairly common among the pines of upper Big Creek. Not seen at any other locality. An adult male in slightly worn summer plumage and three immatures in fresh fall plumage taken. One of the immatures has the upper parts considerably and the under parts slightly washed with reddish yellow or brown and the wings and tail irregularly streaked and barred with the same. Since the bird is in fresh unworn plumage the color can not have been due to fading. I have seen other birds of the same species with a tinge of this same color but in none was it carried to such an extreme.

**Penthestes gambeli.** Mountain Chickadee. Several were seen among the pines at the headwaters of Big Creek above 3000 feet. An adult male in slightly worn and faded plumage was taken on July 4, and an immature bird in first winter plumage on July 5.

**Penthestes barlowi.** Santa Cruz Chickadee. A flock seen on the Little Sur. Not found south of that place.

**Chamæa f. fasciata** (Gambel). Pallid Wren-tit. Abundant along the whole route particularly on the brushy hillsides. Eight adult males, eight adult females and five immatures secured. The series averages nearest *fasciata*. A few of the

specimens are somewhat darker than the southern California birds but most are considerably lighter than birds from Palo Alto, the type locality of *intermedia*.

**Psaltriparus m. minimus.** California Bush-tit. Common at all wooded or brushy points on the route.

**Hylocichla u. ustulata.** Russet-backed Thrush. Often heard on the Little Sur where one was caught in a mouse trap.

**Sialia mexicana occidentalis.** Western Bluebird. Noted between Monterey and the Little Sur. Common in the pines of upper Big Creek where four immatures were taken.

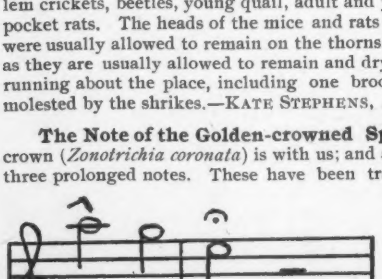
## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Contopus virens in Colorado.**—Since the publication of my article on Colorado birds in the last January CONDOR, the specimen mentioned as labeled doubtfully *Contopus virens* by Mr. Ridgway has been positively identified by him as of that species. It thus affords the first record for Colorado. The specimen was taken near Springfield, Baca County, Colorado, May 12, 1905.—EDWARD R. WARREN, *Colorado Springs, Colorado.*

**Scott Orioles at San Diego.**—In front of our sitting-room window and six feet distant are severel aloes of a small species, bearing panicles of tubular orange flowers on stems about three feet high. In the latter part of April a male Scott oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) alighted many times on these stems, most frequently mornings. He would thrust his bill deeply into the blossoms and appeared to suck the nectar. He was very deliberate, sampling nearly all the the nectar. When the blossoms began to wither the Oriole would pick off each blossom and press blossoms at each visit. I got the impression that he did not gather any insects, simply drinking the base of the tube as if extracting the residue. I saw the female at the aloe blossoms but once. The pair were frequent visitors to a group of "wild tobacco" trees at the back of the house.—KATE STEPHENS, *San Diego, California.*

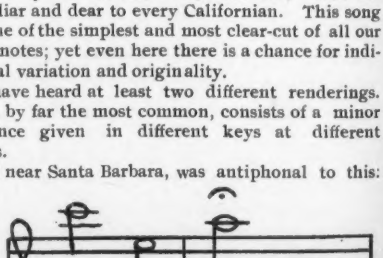
**Some Items in the Diet of California Shrikes.**—For the last two or three years a pair of California shrikes (*Lanius l. gambeli*) have inhabited the eucalyptus trees growing in our yard. In the yard are also two large century plants. The thorns on these century plants are favorite shambles of the shrikes. Some of the food items observed sticking on the thorns are: Lizards of several species including "horned toads" (*Phrynomosa*), scorpions, centipedes, Jerusalem crickets, beetles, young quail, adult and young horned larks, a meadow mouse, and young pocket rats. The heads of the mice and rats were eaten first; but the heads of the horned toads were usually allowed to remain on the thorns. The shrikes do not appear to care for the lizards as they are usually allowed to remain and dry on the thorns. I have broods of young chickens running about the place, including one brood without a mother. None of these have been molested by the shrikes.—KATE STEPHENS, *San Diego, California.*

**The Note of the Golden-crowned Sparrow.**—With the first autumn rains the golden-crown (*Zonotrichia coronata*) is with us; and again is heard his high, sweet song, consisting of three prolonged notes. These have been translated by the words, "Oh, dear me," and are familiar and dear to every Californian. This song is one of the simplest and most clear-cut of all our bird notes; yet even here there is a chance for individual variation and originality.




I have heard at least two different renderings. One, by far the most common, consists of a minor cadence given in different keys at different times.

Another, heard occasionally in an olive orchard near Santa Barbara, was antiphonal to this: It obviously added very much to the interest of the performance. This orchard was a favorite sleeping place of sparrows, and at sunset was full of their clear notes. Will not someone observe the "rain bird" during the coming season, and note other variations from this typical song?—ANNA HEAD, *Berkeley, California.*



# THE CONDOR

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

Thru the energetic efforts of Miss Bertha Chapman the Bryant collection of birds has been secured by popular subscription for the public schools of Oakland. There were 420 splendidly mounted specimens, together with a number of study skins and eggs. The price paid was not given out, but we venture to surmise it to have been in the near neighborhood of one thousand dollars.

Messrs. Finley and Bohlman returned early in July to their homes in Portland, Oregon. Altho their season's work in southern California was considerably shortened owing to the accident to Finley, they were successful in obtaining what is probably the rarest series of bird photos ever captured. We are not at liberty to make further announcements now, but will have more satisfactory information for our readers in our next issue. Watch for the November CONDOR!

Col. L. L. Hawkins, but recently become a member of the Cooper Club, died at Portland, Oregon, March 11, 1906. He was a life-long lover of nature, but had never restricted himself to any one field. His chief pleasure was derived from contributing to the interest of others in natural history. With that end in view he had founded a valuable museum in Portland.

Mr. J. Eugene Law spent the greater part of August at Camp Agassiz extending his acquaintance among the birds of the Tahoe region.

Mr. P. B. Peabody wishes to extend cordial thanks to those who responded to his appeal for information in our May issue. He reports "Nesting Ways" to be growing apace, but there are still many species on his query list to learn about. Mr. Peabody has removed to Blue Rapids, Kansas, and will be glad to have correspondents address him there hereafter.

Mr. Edward R. Warren, of Colorado Springs, spent the latter half of August camera-hunting in the Yellowstone National Park.

Mr. Milton S. Ray recently interviewed one of the lighthouse keepers just in from the Farallones. He reports the April earthquake to have been severe on the Islands, the effect being to somewhat disturb the location of the bird rookeries. (See Emerson, CONDOR VI, May 1904, pp. 61-68.) At Great Murre Cave much of the over-hanging rock fell down raising the floor many feet and changing its whole aspect. The cave under Light Tower Peak has been closed up by the falling debris; and an immense amount of rock fell down at West End. The light tower was practically unharmed, however.

In *The Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society* for June appears a photograph remarkable even now in the day of so much clever bird photography. It is a profile view of a song sparrow in the act of delivering "his most rollicking melody." Two things observable are that the tongue is entirely hidden altho the mandibles are widely apart, and that the throat is not prodigiously distended. These points should be kept in mind by some of our artists.

Thru Mr. John E. Thayer we learn that W. W. Brown has returned safely from a partially successful visit to Guadalupe Island, Lower California. He failed to find the caracara, towhee, and wren (*Thryomanes*), peculiar to the island. This arouses the fear that these species are gone forever.

Mr. O. W. Howard spent the past summer in the Mt. Whitney region of the Sierras, where he obtained many rare nests *in situ*. These were displayed at the August Southern Division meeting. Many were the comments in praise of the energy and ingenuity required to accomplish such perfect results. The nests were transported home practically unruffled, together with a large portion of the immediate surroundings. Such a collection is vastly more instructive than the accumulation of eggs alone, or of these with the bare nests, often mere fragments.

Mr. Edmund Heller recently returned from

Africa where he has spent the past year or more in the interests of the Field-Columbian Museum. He reports a pleasant as well as successful trip. Some ten tons of specimens were secured, including series of large mammals, mostly ungulates, for mounted groups. The larger and more important birds of the region were also obtained in groups suitable for museum display. The greater part of the work was done in central East Africa at elevations ranging from 5000 to 8000 feet. This area was found to be well watered, cool and free from malaria, in spite of its being directly under the equator; so that the work was carried on with comparative comfort. Mr. Heller has been engaged in field-work now for nearly five years, and heartily welcomes his new assignment to museum duties, which will keep him in Chicago for the coming year at least.

## Minutes of Club Meetings

### NORTHERN DIVISION

As no May meeting was expected to be held on account of the disaster to San Francisco and neighboring cities, a special meeting was called at the home of H. O. Jenkins, Stanford University, on April 28, 1906, to consider important business.

Vice-President Fisher occupied the chair and ten members were present, seven of whom were represented by proxy.

In view of the indefiniteness at present existing under the Constitution and By-Laws of the Cooper Ornithological Club as to the disposition of the annual dues, especially as regards the amount to be applied to THE CONDOR, a resolution was adopted, providing that one dollar of the annual dues of each member be designated as the amount to be applied as yearly subscription for THE CONDOR, thereby constituting each active member a "legitimate subscriber" to the publication; and further that the remainder of the annual dues of each member over and above the one dollar before designated shall be applied to said publication also, to legitimate current expenses of the Club, or to such other business as may be provided for by the Constitution and By-Laws. This action became necessary owing to the technical requirements of the Post Office Department, in admitting THE CONDOR to the one cent per pound mailing rates.

Another resolution, as follows, was read and passed:

WHEREAS the California Academy of Sciences has recently lost by fire its entire library, together with its building and collections; and

WHEREAS it has come to the knowledge of the Club that an effort will be at once made to form a new library; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Club donate to said Academy whenever called upon by its librarian, a set of the Club publications (with the exception of the first volume of THE CONDOR which is out of print).

The following were elected to membership: Allan Brooks, Okanogon Landing, B. C.; Bertha Russ, Ferndale, Humboldt Co., Cal.; Frank M. Woodruff, Chicago Academy of Sciences; Col. L. L. Hawkins, Portland, Oregon; Clark C. Van Fleet, 2020 Pacific Ave., S. F., Cal.

The name of Mr. Charles W. Metz, 323 W. Loucks St., Sheridan, Wyoming, was proposed by P. B. Peabody.

The resignation of M. Ella Hall was read and accepted. As no program had been prepared the meeting adjourned, the time and place of the next meeting to be decided later.

H. O. JENKINS, *Secretary*.

### SOUTHERN DIVISION

APRIL.—Regular meeting convened in the Clerk's Office, City Hall, Los Angeles, April 27, 1906. In the absence of both the President and Vice-President, Mr. Morcom was appointed President-pro-tem. Members Stephens, Grinnell, Lelande, Robertson, Dixon, Willett, Clifton, Antonin and Alphonse Jay, Newcombe and Law were present, with Messrs. H. T. Bohlman and A. J. Cromer visiting.

The minutes of the last meeting, March 22, were read and approved. The application of Mr. Chas. E. Cosper, of South Pasadena, Cal., for membership in the Club was presented in due form by Mr. Burnell Franklin. On motion by Mr. Robertson seconded by Mr. Alphonse Jay, and duly carried, a resolution was adopted securing more definite allotment of club funds, especially in regard to CONDOR expenses, this action being necessitated by the Post Office requirements.

The question of a spring outing meeting was discussed and, on motion of Mr. Law, seconded by Mr. Antonin Jay and duly carried, it was decided to hold the outing meeting at Newhall May 19 and 20.

Messrs. Bohlman and Finley having very kindly consented to give the Club another of their illustrated lectures on birds, Messrs. Lelande, Robertson and Law were appointed a committee on arrangements, with power to act, to confer with Messrs. Bohlman and Finley and arrange for such a lecture early in June. [Owing to the accident to Mr. Finley, this undertaking had to be given up.]

An interesting letter from Mr. F. S. Daggett, formerly President of the Southern Division, was read, telling of recent collecting experiences (without collecting) about Chicago, and of his vain endeavors to "shake" civilization. Evidently a day in the California field would be a welcome treat to him. Another letter, from Mr. Carroll Scott, was read, giving additional field notes from Searchlight, Nevada.

A very instructive paper on collecting chests was presented by Mr. Frank Stephens. [Appears in full in this issue.]

Mr. Antonin Jay gave in a paper, a partial list of the sets of turkey buzzard collected by himself and his brother Alphonse Jay, describing minutely the nest and situation in each case. A paper on the Bell sparrow by Mr. Wright M. Pierce, was read by the Secretary in the absence of the writer. Adjourned.

J. EUGENE LAW, *Secretary*.